

In the claims:

1. (Previously presented) A compacting broach for forming a cavity in the intramedullary canal of a bone to receive a prosthetic component, comprising

an elongate body having a central longitudinal axis, a rearward end, a forward end, and a plurality of cutting teeth on a surface of said elongated body and being matched to corresponding corners of the prosthetic component; and

a distal tip at said forward end of said elongate body, said distal tip comprising a plurality of fins extending radially to said central longitudinal axis and extending longitudinally, distally from said forward end of said body to converge at an apex aligned with said central longitudinal axis, said fins being disposed inwardly of said cutting teeth.

2. (Previously presented) A compacting broach for forming a cavity in the intramedullary canal of a bone to receive a prosthetic component, comprising

an elongate body having a central longitudinal axis, a rearward end, a forward end, a plurality of corner edges extending longitudinally along said body to said forward end, cutting teeth along said corner edges, and side walls connecting said cutting teeth of adjacent corner edges, said side walls extending inwardly from said cutting teeth in a direction of said central longitudinal axis, said corner edges being matched to corresponding corners of the prosthetic component; and

a distal tip at said forward end of said body, said distal tip comprising a plurality of fins extending radial to said central longitudinal axis and extending longitudinally, distally from said forward end of said body to converge at an apex aligned with said central longitudinal axis, said fins being disposed inwardly of said cutting teeth.

3. (Original) The compacting broach recited in claim 2 wherein said body comprises four corner edges matched to corresponding corners of a prosthetic component of rectangular cross-section.

4. (Original) The compacting broach recited in claim 2 wherein said side walls have a concave configuration.

5. (Withdrawn) The compacting broach recited in claim 2 wherein each of said side walls comprises first and second side wall segments extending angularly inwardly from said

teeth of said adjacent corner edges, respectively, in the direction of said central longitudinal axis and converging at a point.

6. (Original) The compacting broach recited in claim 2 wherein said distal tip comprises four fins at 90 degree spaced locations about said central longitudinal axis.

7. (Original) The compacting broach recited in claim 6 wherein said fins are aligned with said teeth of said corner edges, respectively.

8. (Original) The compacting broach recited in claim 2 wherein said distal tip comprises three fins.

9. (Original) The compacting broach recited in claim 2 wherein said fins are planar.

10. (Original) The compacting broach recited in claim 2 wherein said distal tip has a bullet-shape in longitudinal profile.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The compacting broach recited in claim 1 wherein said distal tip comprises four planar fins at 90 degree spaced locations about said central longitudinal axis.

14. (Previously presented) The compacting broach recited in claim 1 wherein said distal tip comprises three planar fins.

15. (Previously presented) The compacting broach recited in claim 13 wherein said distal tip has a bullet-shape in longitudinal profile.

16. (Previously presented) The compacting broach recited in claim 14 wherein said distal tip has a bullet-shape in longitudinal profile.

17. (Previously presented) The compacting broach recited in claim 3 wherein said distal tip comprises four planar fins at 90 degree spaced locations about said central longitudinal axis, said fins being aligned with said teeth of said corner edges, respectively.

18. (Previously presented) The compacting broach recited in claim 17 wherein said distal tip has a bullet-shape in longitudinal profile.

19. (Previously presented) The compacting broach recited in claim 18 wherein said side walls have a concave configuration.

20. (Previously presented) The compacting broach recited in claim 18 wherein each of said side walls comprises first and second side wall segments extending angularly inwardly

from said teeth of said adjacent corner edges, respectively, in the direction of said central longitudinal axis and converging at a point.

21. (New) The compacting broach recited in claim 2, wherein said cutting teeth along said corner edges extend without interruption along each said corner edge from a proximal end of said fins to adjacent said rearward end.

22. (New) The compacting broach recited in claim 3, wherein said cutting teeth along said corner edges extend without interruption along each said corner edge from a proximal end of said fins to adjacent said rearward end.

23. (New) The compacting broach recited in claim 17, wherein said cutting teeth along said corner edges extend without interruption along each said corner edge from a proximal end of said fins to adjacent said rearward end.

24. (New) The compacting broach recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of fins are fixedly attached to said elongate body.

25. (New) The compacting broach recited in claim 2, wherein said plurality of fins are fixedly attached to said elongate body.

26. (New) The compacting broach recited in claim 3, wherein said plurality of fins are fixedly attached to said elongate body.

27. (New) The compacting broach recited in claim 23, wherein said plurality of fins are fixedly attached to said elongate body.